

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Hironobu MACHIDA et al.

Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INPUTTING  
ENCRYPTION KEY SETTING

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 02/27/2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: